

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 92559-35770

Title: LIAISON OFFICER'S (LNO) RELATIONSHIP TO ATTACHED COMMAND

Operation/Exercise Name: MARFOR PROMOTE LIBERTY      Observed: 13 Jun 1990

Originator: COMMARFOR PANAMA

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5. (U) OBSERVATION:

The Marine Forces (MARFOR) Panama Liaison Officer (LNO) had to work at maintaining the proper relationship with the attached command.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

The MARFOR LNO to the Joint Task Force Panama (JTF) worked out of the J-3 Plans Section, but spent much of the time with the operations and other staff sections gathering and sharing information. This arrangement proved to be good because Plans initiated most of the operations and the LNO could work with the other sections as the operation evolved. The only difficulty that occurred is that after a while the JTF Plans Officer began to think of the LNO as one of his staff officers and attempted to task the LNO with non-MARFOR related task. A courteous reminder of the LNO's function usually corrected the situation. However, to maintain good relations and time permitting the LNO did assist the JTF Staff in the performance of their duties. The key to good relations with the attached command is that the LNO made the JTF Staff more efficient and the staff members jobs easier.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

That the LNO must maintain his status as the Marine Forces representative to be effective.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the LNO remain firm on his functions as the LNO, but assist the attached command whenever possible. LNOs should take care not to get involved in tasks that detract from his primary duties as the commanders representative to the attached command.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

None stated.

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